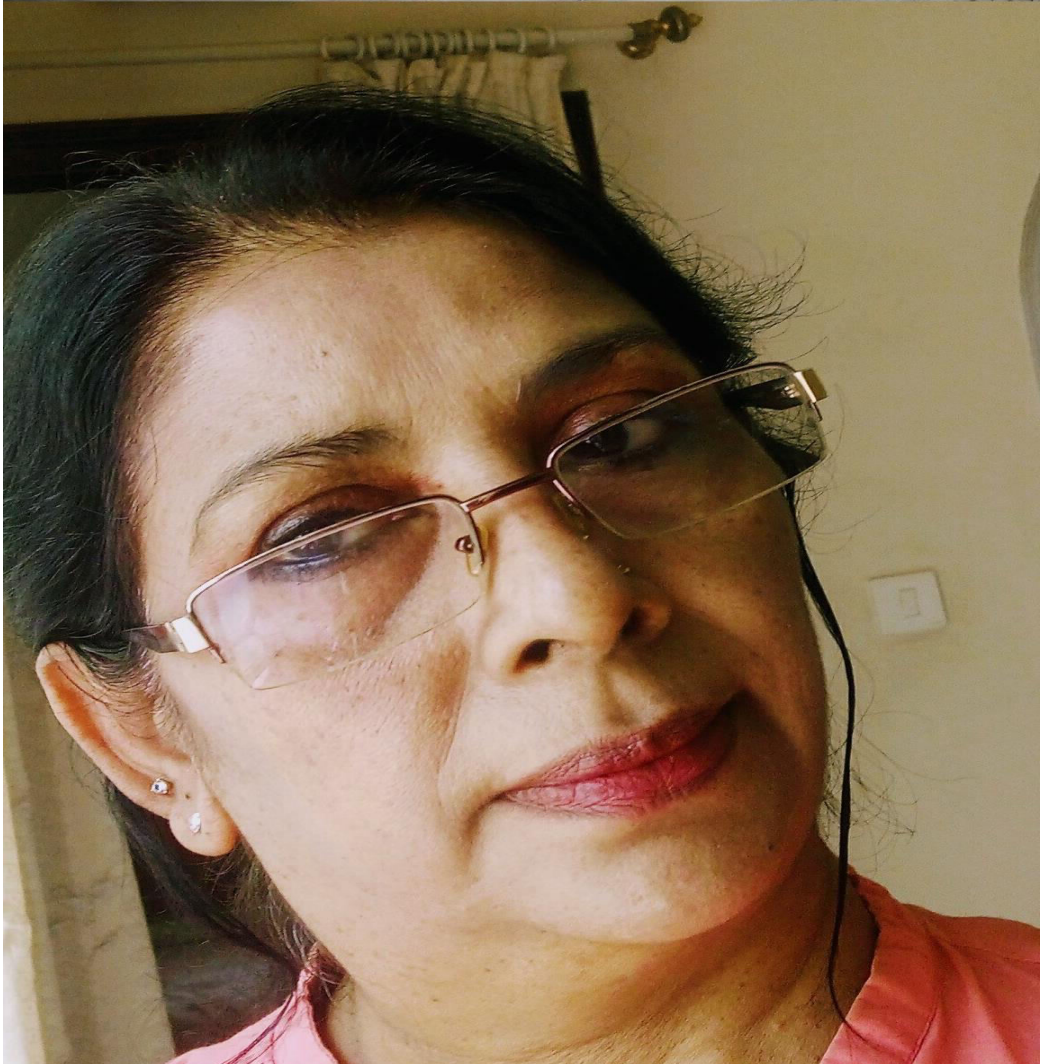
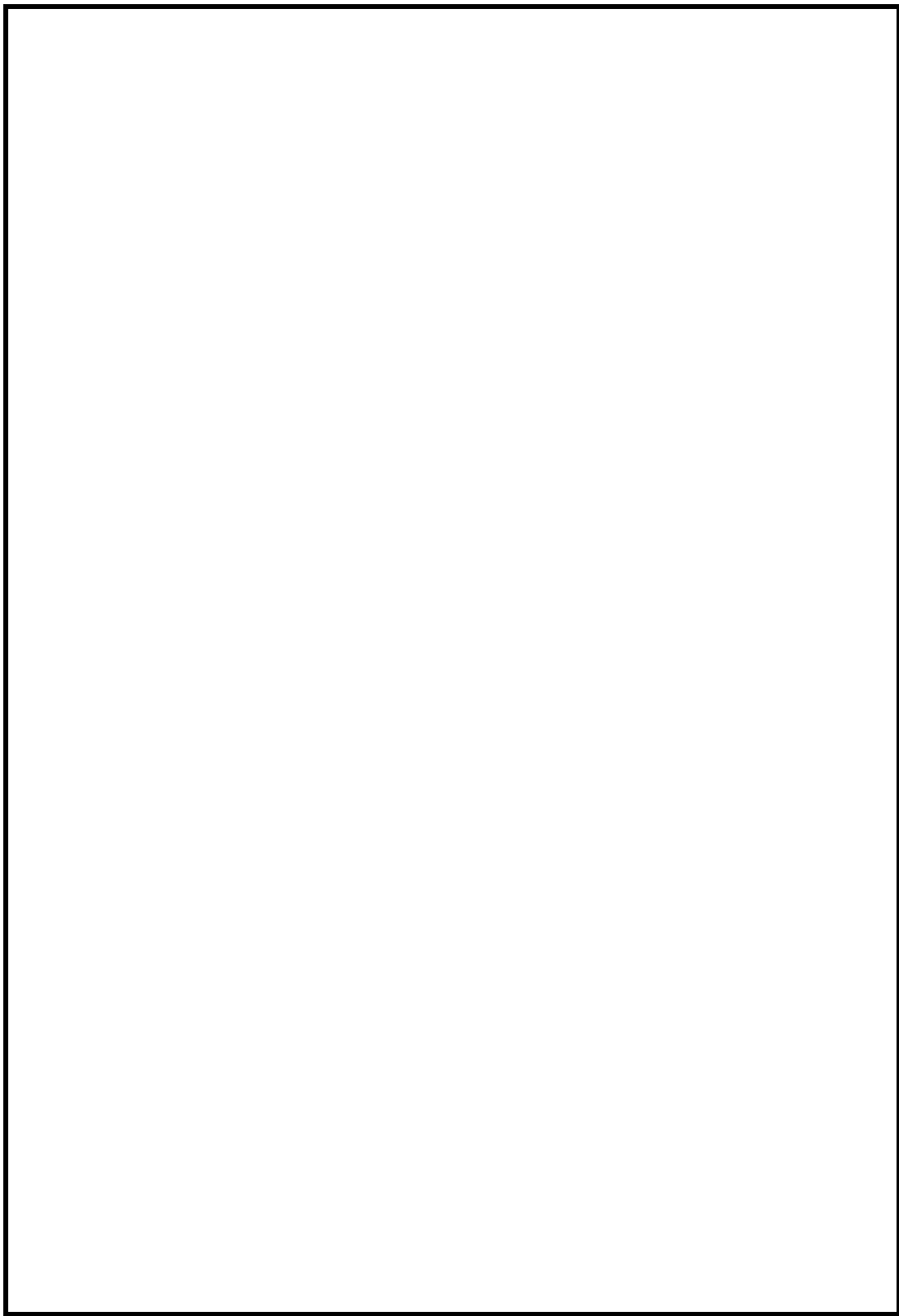


# DARING 4

Detective Novel For Children

BRIJI K T





# **DARING 4**

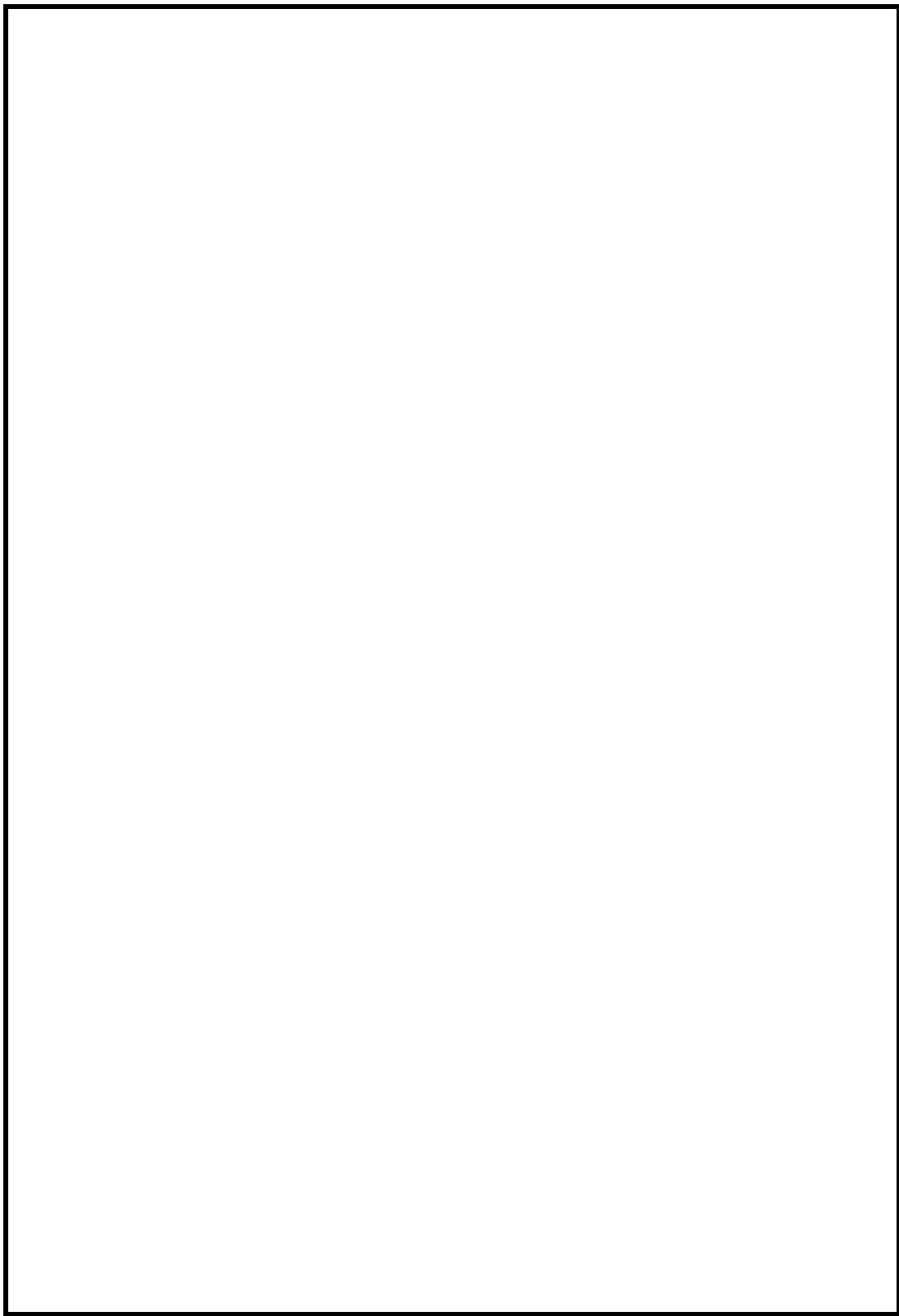
**( A detective Novel for children.)**

**By**

**BRIJI. K.T.**

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Educated in Chandigarh,Jamnagar and Delhi.

Now settled in Bangalore with family.

Writing and painting is a passion.

Collections of short stories in Malayalam are published by noted publishers like Poorna publications ,Budha publications etc.

Two books are under printing.won several prices and awards.

Paintings are mostly oil on canvas  
and conducted several exhibitions .

Briji.K.T

No.327, "Providence"

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NGEF Lay out.

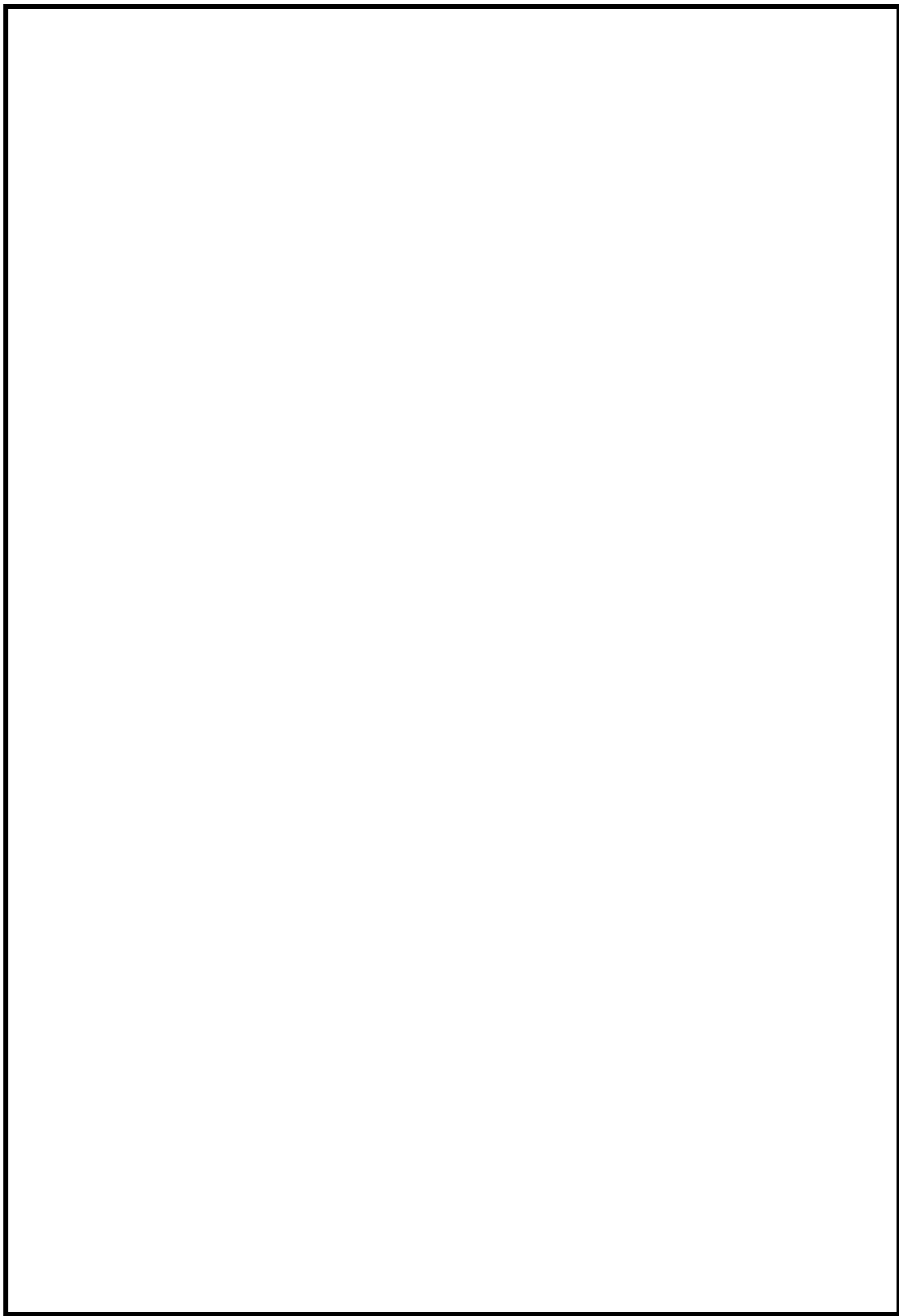
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## CHAPTER-1

### THE CAVE THAT SWALLOWS

**S**ocretes is missing since two days. !

Socretes?

Our Eby.. these children call him socretes for fun.

His mother is inconsolable .News flashed in that small hamlet .

People gathered from the neighbourhood, started searching for him. All wells and small ponds were looked for. His mother Celen's colleagues and other people tried to console her.

Every body waited with bated breath for some news of him.

Few of them were murmuring something and looked at each other in horror .

Does that cave really exist ? some one asked.

Of course. ! .It must have swallowed him.

Don't be stupid. ! Told the head master. In fact we must file a missing complaint in the town police station.

Let SP sir return from Bangalore.

But still ,...we must give a complaint.

Rohan ,Kishan and Sandra were standing near the gate. Some one noticed them and pointed out to them and told .

I saw them playing together in that field and near that valley all these days. Ask them where they went last.

Suddenly Kishan and Sandra ran away. Rohan was in tears. Everybody looked at him.

Where did you go last?

Rohan couldn't explain ,rather didn't want to.

His maid Meenu akka told. Leave him alone. He was not there for the last two days. He had gone to the Estate with his uncle.

Come on Rohan let us go home. She took him home.

Rohan wished that grandpa must come back. He was trying to contact grandpa but he was in some urgent meeting with other top cops and minister for a maoist raid.

Rohan was worried, if his mom and dad come to know all about this

incidents ,they will immediately take him back to US.

This was Rohan's dream trip to grandpa's native village without mom and dad. He thought he could spend the whole summer vacation with grandpa and not under the strict vigil of mom and dad.

If they are around they will never allow him even to take a walk in the back yard.

Dad will say. There are snakes..open well ,stream etc.

Grand ma use to make fun of him.

You grew up in this same house ,you fool..! how many snakes bit you, Did you fall in that well..?

Don't discourage Rohan .Let him explore. Let him feel the soil..

So ,when mom and dad arranged guitar class and horse riding for vacation Rohan threw a tantrum.

Rohan knew that dad has some project to complete and they have to stay back.

Rohan shouted. If you cannot get leave that doesn't mean , I must go for all those classes..! After some time when mom was not around , Rohan pleaded.

Please dad ? !

That night Rohan couldn't sleep. He was little scared also to travel alone. with a tag. 'Un accompanied.'. But he

was ready to take any kind of challenges to reach grandpa's house.

He was so excited to see grandpa at the airport. Out of all people in the whole world ,Rohan adores grandpa. He is a DGP of Karnataka police.

He promised Rohan to take him to his ancestral home in Kerala.. Rohan loves to listen to his service stories and adventures...! Rohan already decided to join police force when he grows up.

Grand pa gave him a tight hug.

Hey ..you have grown so tall young man.

When are we going to our village ?Rohan was in a hurry..

So you don't want to stay in Bangalore ?

When they reached home grandma hugged him and kissed . Rohan could smell the talcum powder she uses and the nice distinct smell of crisp cotton sari.

But why didn't you call your dad. He is very angry.

Oh I forgot. !

Rohan forgot to telephone dad in his excitement.

Then came dad's call with countless instructions and guidelines while playing ,travelling etc. Rohan was not listening but kept on telling 'I know ',ok ',like a parrot.

The journey from railway station to grandpas ancestral home in a jeep was a bumpy ride. Grandma was not so happy as she has back ache.

Maid Meenu akka was so happy to see Rohan as she saw him last time as a baby !

Helpers Kampi and Mani stood and watched . Grand pa enquired their whereabouts. They all are afraid of grand pa as he is a police man.

Grandma gave lots of gifts to them.

After tea grandpa took Rohan to the nearby stream where lot of boys were playing football on the bank of the river. Grandpa called out for those boys and introduced them to Rohan.

This is Rohan .Tomorrow onwards take him also to play.

Rohan, their holidays are getting over.

Out of all boys Rohan took notice of this Socretes who is slightly plumpy with a cute face. Rohan was amused about the name also.

Hey ..shut up .Kishan interrupted.

His name is not socretes. His name is Eby Celene. He earned this nick name as he always talk philosophy and he claims that he is able to read other's mind. He is like a prophet.

All started laughing.

Very soon Rohan made friends with everybody especially Eby.

He narrates things in a beautiful manner for which Rohan adored him.

Socretes is always in a fantasy world. He is always mocked and sidelined as a foolish boy because of his meaningless talks.

His father died in an accident just before his birth. Some how he never approves the guy in the wedding photo as his father.!.One day he asked his mom .

Who is this guy standing next to you.?!  
Celene laughed.

That is your father ..you fool.

No. He shot back. I don't like him. He started crying shouting ,screaming .and trampled his feet.

Ok Ok...calm down. She took the photo and went inside crying. Eby felt bad.

Celene is a nurse in the town hospital ..After her husband died ,she never married again and gave all comforts to Eby who couldn't even see his father.

Eby is very poor in academics and Celene was always wanted by the teachers for some mischief he has done.

Look at his answer sheet. He wrote all stupid answers of his own, He questioned the questions prepared by teachers. He needs proof for all we teach. He says he doesn't want to learn something ,just because it is printed in the text book. Some are utter foolishness!

Celene fought back her tears.

Madam ,I am a single parent. His father died before his birth.

We know Celene. We are giving extra care but sometimes he is so adamant and weird. !!

Once ,one new teacher came and while taking attendance ..she called Eby Celene and looked at the girl's row. Every body roared with laughter .

She asked .Why did you take your mother's as surname. what is your father ,where is he.?

He has no father teacher. Some one shouted.

There came Eby's answer.

Teacher,... I was born out of a dream of my mother.

Teacher looked at him in dismay as every body laughed loudly. Later when Kishan told this to Celene she wacked him .

Why mom ..,you only told that your marriage and my birth ...everything was like a dream .!

‘Sunday class ‘ teacher also has complaints.

Celene ,I am fed up of your son's doubts.

He asks .Did God create this universe.

Yes .I answered.



But the people who wrote this doctrine made mistakes.

When God created the universe.3<sup>rd</sup> day He created light.

Let there be light.!

5<sup>th</sup> day He told let there be Sun, moon, and stars etc..

If He created Sun and Moon on the fifth day ,how come he told let there be light on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Without sun where is the light come from?

Celene told the nun that she will advise him and quietly came home .

Listening about Socretes , Rohan was quite impressed by his never ending doubts. ,and his way of thinking.

He explored nature, talked to plants insects..and birds.

Kishan laughed. You know ,last final exam he was talking to a Myna through the window and forgot to write his science paper.!!

So what. That Myna was the one which i saved .It was wounded some how..I tied its wound with cloth and took good care of it for a whole day. I kept it on the top of the bookshelf as I know that mom will never allow it in our house. The whole night I was focusing it with mental telepathy ..

I scared away rats and a cat with my inner vision power from home.

Kishan and Sandra started laughing.

Then what happened the next day?  
Rohan was curious.

The next day it was on the desk,  
standing. !.I was extremely happy.  
When children made noise ,it flew  
away.

But whenever I sit near the window  
this Myna will come and look at me  
with beautiful black eyes with a deep  
yellow shade.

That is ok. love nature .! but you  
should not distract yourself from the  
reality of life. Rohan told.

What reality. ?!.Exams are not the  
whole reality of life. You learn things  
out of nature ,yours and my life ,but  
that doesn't mean , some one can ask  
so many questions about what you  
learn or how much you learned.

When he was detained ,Celene got  
angry and hit him out of despair.!

You never go hungry and that is why  
you cannot understand the value of a  
livelihood for which we need  
education. She shouted.

When Rohan told all about Socrates's  
view points to grandpa , grand ma was  
feeling bad about Celen's plight..

Next day after morning walk grandpa  
along with Rohan stood outside  
Socrates house and talked to him for a  
while.

Grand pa told

Of course your certain view points are correct. But you must realize that you need education to get a job and get some money.

Money is what. A piece of paper which we value more than life.

No. Our system is like that,. First You finish your studies . Earn money for a living. And always remember that be a nice human being and be careful that money should not rule you.!

Celene told.

Sir please come and have a look in his room. He painted whole solar system on the walls .He invites all children to teach about the universe ,black whole ,milky way etc.

That means he is very intelligent. Grand pa was fascinated.

But he teaches his own theories for which other parents blames him..., and call him crazy.

Its ok .He is a clever child. Grandpa assured Celene. Socretes agreed to write exams and study like all other children. Celene felt relieved.

Socretes whispered to Rohan about next day's expeditions they planned .

It must be a secret. Other wise no one will allow us.

They decided to go explore the hill where everybody believes that there exists a swallowing cave. No one has seen the cave. But some rumours of missing children was always there.

The cave will open at times only to swallow children.

Exciting!! Rohan also was curious.

## **CHAPTER-2.-**

### **THE EXPEDITION**

Rohan couldn't sleep well thinking about those innocent children who were swallowed by the cave.!

But Rohan was sure that there may be something wrong in the story of that cave. Its very easy to fool these innocent villagers.

He got up early ..he wore full sleeves shirt and gumboots.

Grandma ,I am going to Eby's house to play.

Its fine. But don't go so far and return fast. It is so sunny outside.

Hey Rohan I am going to the town to buy things for the workers in the Estate. Are you not coming.

No. Grand pa You carry on.

Rohan was excited about the adventurous trip to the hill.

Socretes ,Kishan and Sandra were waiting.

By the way this is Sandra .She is my mom's colleague's daughter. Her father is in Dubai.

When her mom is on duty she will be in my house.

Are we taking her also.

Sandra got angry. Why ?This male domination from now only.

Oh I am sorry Sandra. Rohan apologised .

But one problem is there. Her mother will come back by five o clock. We must return before that.

These girls are always a problem.  
Kishan told.

Ok. I am a problem. Give back my  
foreign chocolates..

Sorry...Kishan laughed.

Yeh „yes Sandra is a brave girl.

Ok now .stop all these nonsense.  
Listen to me carefully. Eby became  
serious.Don't ever tell anybody about  
our trip.

In fact from when I wanted to know  
the truth behind this story of  
swallowing cave. But no body was  
ready to go.

Elders use to make fun of it..

But there was news about missing  
children. Rohan asked.

That also was not genuine .

At the end of the road they took a  
diversion on a pathway.

There was a steep descend to  
another small road..All of the ran  
down. But Rohan couldn't .He was  
struggling with one step at a time and  
his boot was skidding . They were  
watching him and laughing loudly.

Socretes changed his voice and told  
with gestures as a drama dialogue.

Hey prince ..remove all your princely  
attire and come down to earth to this  
poor children of the soil.!!

Kishan ran up and held Rohan's hand and they ran down together.

Though Rohan tried to balance ,he fell. While getting up he was telling we must have spikes under the shoe.

Spikes? What is that..?

Oh forget.

After some time Rohan became familiar with the terrain...and they jogged for a while.

They passed a small farm of cocoa trees and a stream beside the valley. They climbed through the side of the hill. Rohan looked around. He was so fascinated by the sight. He never had an opportunity to step foot in such a beautiful landscape..!

This is the boundary of our village.

Towards west ,there you see those small hillocks standing hand in hand ,your grandpa's estate is behind that. Encircling those hills can you see one white ribbon kind of mark, that is a road which goes to the other side .

Interesting.! Rohan has full of curiosity and enthusiasm .

Do you know Rohan , these hills were flying like giant birds in ancient times. Sandra told.

Rohan burst into laughter. Oh ..then ?Rohan was amused.

Yeh.. It may be a story foretold. You city children may not be interested in folk stories.

No .I am listening.

All these hills could fly and slowly they became so proud of their might . They started flying everywhere and scaring every living and non living things. No one could control them.

God was fed up of the complaints He was getting in a daily basis. At last he took his mighty sword and clipped those wings. It all fell here and there with a thud., !!

God told..when you were flying ,you use to scare every thing. Now ,all trees ,plants animals and birds ,and every living creatures will take over you. You house everything!

Hills became very sad and started crying. That became spring and started flowing as small streams. Their tears.

Oh..how sad. !! But that spring water doesn't have salty taste. Eby mocked.

Interesting .!! Rohan told.

While listening to Sandra's story they reached the other slope of the hill. It was dense with all kind of bushes. The place was so shady and dark.

What if a tiger appears now.? Rohan asked.

We all can play with it. Socretes laughed.

The other day when one tiger came in front of me ,suddenly I climbed a tree till the top, slid down by bending a branch ,quickly tied its tail to that



branch and I jumped down. The tiger was thrown to the sky like an arrow from a bow.!

Wow...what a courageous boy you were Sikkari Sampu. Rohan mocked.

Hey.... tiger. !! Rohan pointed towards the bush and started running. Everybody ran .Socretes was in front.

Sandra screamed in panic.

Stop !! Rohan couldn't control his laughter. Though I grew up in city , that doesn't mean I am a fool. Dude .

Sorry Sandra. Sandra also joined to tease Socretes.

Kishan told. Oh ..,this great Socretes use to say ., Don't believe and panic without any reason. You must try to find out the truth. Now why did you run in panic.

I knew there was no tiger in this forest .But I was fed up of walking.

Hey...sh.!...Sandra put her finger on her lips. Quiet .!! Some body is crying.!

Every body stood in silence. Yeh .sobbing ! .some child's cry.

Sandra was upset.

Come let us go home .what if mom gets back after duty.?!

No body had a watch. In that forest it was difficult to guess time also.

That is true. If they find out where we went ,our plan will go futile. I am

feeling hungry also. Rohan told..We will call off today's search and let us come back tomorrow.

But we came to find out about the cave. Socretes was disappointed.

Where is it any way .You just heard about it .

But older people use to talk about it. But no one dare to go to the cave .Next village had lost so many children. Some kind of power attract the children towards the forest and suddenly they disappear.. Later people will find only some bones and hair.

Did any one see that.?! Rohan wanted some reliable answer.

But no body is lost from our neighbourhood .

Kishan intervened .When my granny was a young girl they had a servant boy named kannan .He use to take the cows to the valley to graze. One day he came and told about this cave. But nobody took it seriously.

One day in the evening ,cows returned without kannan it seems. Other servants searched for him and after three days they found some bone and hair.!

Didn't they inform the police.?! Rohan asked.

Those days they will complain only to the chief of the village and he must decide whether to go to the police and all.

Very strange.

But where it could be..! Rohan was thinking .

There wont be any trace of the cave. It will open up suddenly at times and swallow children.

Rohan wanted to laugh.. ,Do you believe this?

Socretes laughed. I just told what the villagers say.

Okay ,any way we came so far. We will go little further and look for the cave.

Sandra was unhappy as she was thinking about her mother's anguish when she returns from duty.

They walked through the foot line mark encircling the hill .They suddenly reached a clearance. In the midst of the forest there was a plane area.

This place looks like an abandoned cardamom estate or something.

Hey look at that pavement kind of flat stones .There will be a house near by. ,I am sure.

Then this will be that estate where a double murder happened years ago. Servants killed a foreign couple .It came in all papers which my father use to read. Kishan told.

I was so scared to sleep after seeing the headless bloody body of that lady.

Her headless ghost is still in that bungalow I believe!. Kishan told.

Why all the ghosts are there only in villages.!

Rohan laughed.

Look at that bush. There is an opening.

They saw a small opening in the thick bush and a canopy kind of path through which only a small child can enter.

Socretes knelt before it. And peeped.

Be careful. That may be the path way of wild bores.

Socretes stood up..This may not be the cave. But I am sure there may be a secret pathway to the other side of the hill because there was sunlight inside. But it is not big enough to walk.

Suddenly from nowhere ,vague screaming or crying could be heard.

Sandra screamed in fear. Ghost ....run... !! Sandra and Kishan started running.

Hey stop .! you will lose track. Socretes scolded them.

Quiet.!. Rohan gestured..Hey somebody is crying.

Yes .it is again sobbing sound. Somebody is crying in pain.

Suddenly a high wind passed ,lifting all dry leaves and dust ..Tree

branches shook violently with fluttering sound. The strange sight was that ,they could see the wind passing only on a route and rest of the forest was still.

Rohan felt weird. The sobbing noise disappeared with the wind.!

That means we are some where near that swallowing cave. Soctres whispered .!!

Everybody looked at each other in horror.!!

## CHAPTER-3

### TWO HEADED GHOST.

Two servants of Rohan were already out in search of Rohan. They found them in the cocoa farm .

. Kampi will be always with his country made gun .Though hunting is a crime now, he will boast about his skill in shooting.

Now he is like a gunman to the family.

You carry on ..I just go to Eby's house and get my cycle and come. Rohan told Kampi.

Grandma is worried..

It is ok I am coming.

Socretes warned everybody not to tell where they went and about the events happened.

If they come to know they will never allow us to tread any more.!

Rohan thought of sharing about every thing with grandpa. But again he doesn't want to break the promise he gave to Socretes' . More over Rohan knows that grandpa will ridicule ghost and cave stories.

Rohan remembers a ghost story which his grandpa narrated The ghost buster story is happened in Rohan's dad's childhood...

The scary ghost was in this same village.

Socretes ,kishan and Sandra., was so delighted to listen Rohan's story

His dad was so scared of ghosts when he was a small boy. He hated his Kerala trips., because of this ghosts..There was a ghost scare when his dad was four or five years old.

. A double headed ghost.!

It comes every Friday night. The whole people of the village will be in before darkness. After midnight one can hear the dangling of bells and pounding of the foot.

As a small boy Rohan's dad was afraid of everything ,even darkness. He is so scared of every noise of insects ,frogs and night birds. On top of that their cook told about this ghost story also.!

The ghost will knock at your door ,plead for water in an old lady's or child's voice...!. If you open the door you will be drop dead. If you wont open, it tries again with moaning crying and whistling and if nothing works out , it passes to the next house.

Once their cook peeped through the door. He could see only the shadow. Two headed huge ghost with thin long legs. It's breath was like the hissing and whistling of wind. When it walks bells and human bones tied around its waste were dangling and jingling.

Rohan's dad was so scared that he refused to sleep and became bedridden with fever. Grandpa tried to convince him in vain, that ghost is an imaginary concept . At last he decided to find out and waited for the next Friday..!

Grand pa decided to sleep in the farm house as the ghost moves through that road..

After midnight grandpa got up by the noise of bells and heavy footsteps from far.

Oh God ..then was it real. ? Kishan asked

Grand pa took his service revolver and torch and went out. He waited in pitch darkness. He saw one dangling light approaching with the sound of bells .He got ready with his gun.

It came nearer and he saw the double headed ghost.

Sandra's eyes became wide with horror. She slowly moved closer to Socretes.

It was a bullock cart with a lantern hung underneath .People saw long big shadow of the bulls with horns. All the bells on the horns and around the neck of the bulls made sound. .In the silence of midnight their foot steps echoed in that narrow road.

Then people made stories. It is like grape wine telegraph. Stories will grow with your imagination and added lies and passes it on.!



Mallan the cart man was taken aback to see my grandpa and stopped the cart.., and jumped down in panic.

What happened police sir. My grandpa used to know in that name.

He told Mallan about the ghost story about which he was not aware .

He used to go to the Saturday market in Tamil nadu border for which he should start on Friday night. More over it wont be hot also if you go at night.

He passes through this village as it is a short cut.

It is ok. It is not your mistake. Don't worry.

Mallan made a noise to the bulls to start again.

That Sunday evening, Mallan on his way back from the market ,stopped his cart near the farm house and gave bananas and other things. .

Grand pa showed the ghost to my dad. Two beautiful strong white bulls.!

Were you afraid little sir. Mallan asked.

My dad is seeing bulls from a close range for the first time. The bulls were balancing the cart and was breathing heavy. Any way for my dad they were not so appealing .He was still afraid.!

Grandpa use to say, Think wisely and scientifically. Dead people are either buried or cremated. How can they

come back in their body again. More over they are our near and dear ones. They never intend to scare us.

It is sad that always our dearest people also become scary after their death.

No.. but those who die leaving their dreams and wishes behind will come back to full fill or take revenge .Sandra told.

The memories of the departed souls will be very strong that some times we will have illusions or dreams which we think as its real.

Grand pa always say ,dead people are not scary. Beware of thieves or kidnappers who always will come up with all ghost stories to scare people.

Now any way let us all go home . Tomorrow we will go little early.

Suddenly Kishan recalled .

Did you notice ,one fellow was walking with a small girl and the girl was crying.

Yeh even I saw. By the time this Rohan's servants came ..We got distracted.

But what connection.?

I don't know . But in that forest near the pavement we heard some one's sobbing noise. I am sure if we follow that pavement there will be something.

Are you sure the child was crying. ? we could have stopped them. And of

course Kampi also was there at that point.

What if people kidnap children and make them beggars by disfiguring them as in Slum dog millionaire .Rohan told.

What?!

Nobody has seen that movie.

That is ok. What happened In that movie.

These bad guys kidnap poor children from slum and make them blind by piercing their eyes with hot iron .And then they send them for begging. It is a big racket.

But here in this village who will do all these cruelty.?! Socretes asked.

Can't tell. They traffic kids to other cities.

Any way tomorrow no turning back before finding the cave .

Dont take this Sandra. She screams always which will scare us also.

Sandra pulled a face. Yeh don't take me. So that I can tell every body where you are going.

This is a special quality of girls . Socretes mocked her.

Rohan was feeling so tired and his leg was painig. He took bath and had dinner ,All the while he was thinking about the weird place and the little girl

who was accompanying that man crying..

Rohan slept before grandpa came back. He didn't wake him up as he has to pack for an urgent trip to Bangalore.

The next day grand pa came to his bed and told about the urgent trip to Bangalore.

Rohan I will be back after two days. Don't give trouble to grandma. Ask Kampi for any help. He will come from estate if you call. When I come back we can go to our estate. You can take your friends also.

Rohan was not out of sleep properly.

By the way your Socrates came twice...Bye Rohan. Take care..Grandpa kissed Rohan goodbye..

Rohan jumped out of bed. He quickly finished everything and ate his breakfast in a hurry

Where are you going in a hurry. Yesterday you didn't even come for lunch.

Its okay .I ate from Kishans house. Today we all play in Ebys house. I will come in the evening grandma.

In fact Rohan was feeling bad for telling lies to her.

Today my mom has full day and night duty. Sandra was happy..

Next week my father is going to come..!

So ..be nice to her . Her father will bring lot of chocolates. Kishan told. .

Socretes looked the other way.

Rohan felt bad. Socretes lost his father in an accident just before his birth. His mother never married again even though everybody forced her. As he grew up to understand what death means,..he wondered that only his father is dead. Once he asked in public.

Momma why only my father died when all other children's father didn't die.

Sh.. don't talk like that. Celene scolded him.

Its getting late. Come let us go. Rohan changed the subject. Dont forget to take a watch.

We will carry little water also. Socretes did you lock the house properly.

They reached the foot of the hill within half an hour.

## CHAPTER-4

### THE BLACK WHOLE

Every thing seems to be different. Kishan told. This place looks strange. Plants trees everything.. and even there is no trace of that foot line path yesterday we took to climb.

I think we came to a different slope. Rohan told.

No. But like yesterday we passed the cocoa farm and valley .

Rohan took a magnet from his pocket and told. No this is the place. But little ahead. More over we reached here in the afternoon. They walked little further and saw a kind of pathway which appears as less used .

Socretes suggested to pick up big sticks so that they can climb uphill with

the support of that . At first Rohan found it silly to walk like old people with sticks. But later ,realized the poles support your wait and it really helps to climb.

They walked in a line ,Rohan in front and Socretes at the back.

But yesterday we didn't walk so much to reach that pavement. Sandra told.

That is because we accidently found out that. Or may be this is a different route. Any way there is some movement going on here. Rohan was sure.

That could be people with cow herds or people those who taking the short root to the other side of the hill .Any way. Let us see.

Or the cave must have swallowed some one and disappeared. Everybody laughed. They were getting into deeper forest and grass were taller than them.

As Rohan was clearing the thick grass with his stick ,he stepped on a shaky stone and that part of earth caved in.  
!!

He shouted and jumped back. Stop.!

They could hear the sound of the stone and mud fell in deep water. Rohan was shivering.

Socretes jumped in front and pulled every body back. Look ! it is an abandoned well. Thank God we didn't fall.

All of them tried to peep in.

Hold on to some thing and peep. The mud may be loose on the edge of the well as it was raining heavily yesterday night..

Socretes talked with a serious face.

Look friends this is as dangerous as the black whole in outer space. Several stars and planets simply vanish in the black whole. The black whole is a vacuum in the space which swallows huge stars and planets.

Now our poor Rohan would have vanished in this black whole.

Oh ! shut up Eby.

Though the sun light was penetrating the canopy of tall trees ,there was darkness inside the well, !

Plants and thorn bushes have grown on all sides of the well reduced the width of the well. Cobwebs were shining like silk threads .. Look at the spiders . So huge .We can see those big eyes rolling. It is looking at Sandra. Kishan bursted into laughter.

Ha Ha very funny.

Suddenly Socretes threw a stone inside and told,

Silence. !! listen to the sound when it falls in the water. He was holding the watch he brought.

They could hear the sound after a while. Now do you want to know how deep the well is ?. Calculate the



speed of the stone travelled ,and the time it took.

I don't know all those things ,but yester day this well was not there. So this may be the cave they are talking about.

This well was there always. But we didn't observe. Now look for that clearance. ,and pavement like flat stones we saw yesterday.

But who dug this well here.?!

That is what I told you there will be a house or bungalow somewhere near .,rather abandoned.!

Socretes and kishan were throwing stones in the well and enjoying the sound 'blum blum.'

Later when Socretes put a bigger stone one big noise came from inside and one strong stench irrputed.

Sandra covered her nose. Socretes and Kishan also got scared.

Rohan told . These abandoned wells will have toxic gases. Walk fast.

They climbed little more and Rohan shouted. Look that clearance and the pavement. !

They followed the pavement .The stone path led to a flat area with long grass and bushes with wild flower.

Hey look. This is a cemetery. They stopped to look around. Kishan was little scared.

Come on ..,I told you dead people are no harm. Rohan smiled.

Rohan and Socretes started cleaning one tomb .They tried to read the head stone. There was a metal cross lying on the ground. .But this looks very small . may be a child. Then they found Two more tombs .These are comparatively bigger ones.

There may be a church or chapel near by.

Not necessary. Rohan told. This seems to be a family cemetery. Earlier when these British ruled us ,mostly they use to stay in estates for the cold climate. So when they die ,they use to cremate here itself. . English people use to bury even their dogs also like human beings and inscribe its name on the tomb.

Any way now , keep in mind how to get back to our home. This terrain seems to be so unfamiliar.

Suddenly they heard some body 's crying sound.

Hey wait. Some one is crying. Same like yesterday. Sandra pointed out to one of the tomb and shouted. I told you it is from this.! Kishan looked in horror.

Dont be stupid Sandra. They are dead and gone .

But they couldn't locate the sound. Then it stopped suddenly.

Socretes became serious..I think something is fishy and un natural

about this place.., or there may be some paranormal activity as I read in a book. !!

Kishan stood speechless. He was a bit frightened ,,but wanted to investigate.

Grandpa use to say. There is only one death for the brave. Cowards will die several deaths.

Rohan told and walked ahead. All of them followed through the clearing.

They came to a small passage which was canopied with tangled tall weeds..Come.. lets go through this arch. Kishan told.

Wait. Socrates warned. We must be care full. This may be a pathway of wild bores or other small animals.

No I don't think so. See we are able to walk upright .Only elders must bend. If it was wild bore's path way ,this arch would have been smaller More over wild animals leave a distinct smell .

How do you know.

At least all of us must have gone to the zoo. A strong stink will be there if you go near those cages .

If it leads to a den of some wild cats or bores we will have it.

Sh... wait some one is talking. Or whispering.!

God ..it may be some leopard or hyena cub; !

Will you please keep quiet. Just walk.  
Rohan whispered

Cow herd boys use to talk about this  
mysterious noises from the hill top.,

Rohans servant Kampi also admitted  
of hearing some music and flute from  
this hill.! Kishan told.

Ok. What are you trying to say. ? !  
Rohan asked Kishan.

We cant tell ..or rule out ...ghosts.

Do you believe in ghosts.?!

This is not a question of belief.. My  
grand ma use to say if there is good  
,evil also will be there.

Any way I think we must inform elders.

Don't be stupid . Socretes exclaimed.  
If my mother comes to know she will  
say it is all my imaginative story and  
she will lock me up.!

Rohan was wondering ,why no one  
gave a police complaint of the  
missing children so far.

Socretes laughed. This Rohan make  
me laugh. For him police is everything.

Rohan.., they will never take any  
interest for poor children's missing  
cases. !

After all whose children are they any  
way.?

They will redicule us if we tell them to  
investigate about these noises and

cave which swallows etc. We may get into trouble also.

Suddenly they startled by the noise of an organ and laughter. Their first reaction was to run away. But Socretes told. Now there is no turning back. We must find out.

Kishan told. We have nothing in our hands. No weapon, .

If it is a ghost we will give Kishan first. Ghost's stomach will be filled soon. Then it will fall into a slumber as in bedtime stories.

Very funny.!

There is no ghost. Rohan assured. If children had been missing It is all because of other mysterious reasons .

They walked carefully through the arch towards the suspected organ sound..They reached an opening and plane area.

Hey look .There is a house or bungalow uphill. Rohan pointed out..They all ran to wards it. It is in the midst of small bushes and trees.

It is huge house with a thick wooden front door. It was locked. The house had slanting roof with bay windows. They could not see any thing inside as the curtains were drawn. They got down to a side walk where they could see low windows of the basement..They tried to peep through basement but it was almost dark inside.

Though it appears to be old and uninhabited there is something about it which shows some activities.

Now what?

Any way we reached this far. We will try to get into the house.

I saw there is a broken window pane. As this bungalow won't have window grill we can somehow get inside.

Socrates took a stone and broke the glass little more wide. He cut his finger in the act and it started bleeding.

Ouch.!

Sh....Listen Sandra warned . Somebody's laughter and murmur vaguely .!!

Yeh .the smell of blood woke all Draculas up from the coffin.

Hey shut up .Don't be funny. Come let us all go in.

They got into the house one by one.

There was not much furniture. But whatever was there, all covered with bed sheets. That means somebody left this house after packing everything safe.

But, did you notice the front door was locked from inside.!

Yeh .that is true. If people left the house they must lock it from outside.

Chances are there they must have locked the back door from outside.  
.Come let us see.

Hey look there is no back door .!!

We are trapped. Sandra told in horror.

Why should we be trapped .We came through the window. We will go back the same way.

They found one door to the basement and as soon as they opened it ,there was one strong stench which they could not bear. All of them covered their nose .

They felt an unusual hot air coming from the basement. ,as if something was burning inside.

Let the door be openend for a while .then we will go see.

Come let us climb up. Kishan ran up. As the wooden stairs are shaky it was giving out screeching sound.

Don't make so much of noise..They came to a wide corridor. From there one ornamental carved wooden stair case leads to the first floor..Kishan started climbing.

Wait..first we will see downstairs .Rohan suggested not to part. We four must be together.

They came up to the kitchen area. Nothing much was there except some cutlery.

The stinking vegetables and some fruits on the huge dining table was a

strange scene .As this bungalow looks un inhabitant this vegetables and fruits are not very old.

They looked at each other. Creepers and plants have grown inside through the ventilator of the kitchen and huge window of the dining room.

Suddenly a strong wind blown and all the plants and trees touching the glass windows made weird noises . In the midst of it suddenly one loud scream was heard from upstairs.

Rohan could find only Sandra around. Where are they, Kishan and Eby ?

God. They disappeared...!! Sandra panicked.

Suddenly they saw Kishan running down screaming through the wooden stairs which made huge noise.

Rohan shouted .

What happened. ? Where is Socretes.?

Kishan ran down and crashed into Rohan. He was panting.

There ..somebody...!!

But where is Eby..?

I don't know.

Rohan started running upstairs . He stopped suddenly hearing one loud voice and scream.

Before Rohan could go up ,Socretes came down running. He was laughing.



It is a TV on upstairs..!

Are you kidding. How can a TV be running for such a long time. Where is the power. ?

I don't know .Come I will show you. Pictures are not clear but I think the audio is on and off sometimes.

Rohan was angry. I told you that we all must stick to each other. Look at Kishan he is so scared. ,says he saw some body there upstairs.

He must have seen me. Socretes laughed.

All of them started climbing .

Kishan climbed last .When he reached the huge drawing room he screamed again.

There ...!.He pointed out to the adjacent room. There was huge mirror in which he saw the reflection of a skeleton. ,with a long coat and hat on it.

Rohan told .Why are you afraid. Look again . It is not real. They must have celebrated "Halloween" day, like in America.

What is that. Sandra asked.

It is an ancient Celtic festival. People light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

You must have seen in TV . US people celebrate Halloween day by wearing all kind of attires and paint

their faces or come up with horrible make up..!

By the way ,It is getting dark. We must go back .

But our search for anything was not fruitful . Neither we found the cave nor we come across any clue of those missing children.

One thing we found out .

What ?!

.In fact this TV is the ghost .People heard crying screaming and sound of music etc. all because of this TV set's on and off relay.

If somebody abandoned this house how come the TV is still on.?

As I told you earlier have a vague memory of a double murder about which my father use to read in news paper .But it happened in an estate bungalow ,some where in Tamil nadu border.

I still remember the photo of the head less body of a lady in a long gown..

This may be that bungalow which police had taken over and sealed long time ago.

Ok leave that story. But somewhere in the back of my mind I think some body is using this house now.

Any way its getting dark . we will leave this place. The balcony is locked. As they climbed down ,they saw another stairs down next to the corridor. It led

to a secret passage kind of veranda and to a small room. It was poorly lit .

When they opened the door they reached another veranda where there was no door.

They got frightened.. We are lost. Sandra told. How to find our way to the front door window.

This bungalow is like an imaginary castle. So big and mysterious construction. One can't get back to where they started.

It is almost dark inside .As they walked Socretes pounded one place with his foot.

Hey this place is hollow. !!

It is so creepy. Now let us find our way back.

They couldn't find the front door window of which they broke the glass .But they could come out of a small work area kind of place where the door was broken. They reached the back side of the bungalow.

Hey what is that. Socretes asked.

Oh.! . Those are windmills. Rohan exclaimed ! That is the reason the house is having supply.. TV is on and off.

They could see one road in the valley and one van was standing there. As it is almost evening they could not see much.

That vehicle looks strange.

I feel there are some people inside. It is not visible. I have a feeling that they may be some thieves . Something is not right about them.

No. I think that is a family. I could see some children.

But why are they stopping there. There no road or shop .

Any way , still let us take down that vehicle number.

We have to climb on that rock to see clearly.

Hey wait. But if it is a family there must be ladies. Think about that crying child near the valley. What if they all are kidnapped children.?

Hey...Ho. hello.....suddenly Socretes shouted. And howled.

Rohan pushed him down. What nonsense are you doing. Eby.?!

We wont be able to complete our mission .

One of the man was looking around. Did he see us .?! Now run.!

They quickly reached the arch and ran down .when they reached the clearance.. Kishan asked. Right or left.

Right.

They ran as fast as they could.

## CHAPTER –5

### THE BUNGLOW.

Rohan reached home panting. Meenu akka was waiting.

Where is grandma. Rohan asked her.

Thank God she is not here. She went to your grandaunts house as their servant is bitten by a snake. They are in the hospital. Your father had called several times.

Where did you go baba. Come take bath and have food.

Meenu akka do you have any idea of a bungalow up hill .

God ,! did you go there.?

No .how can I ? Rohan lied.

Why ? what happened ,.Are we not supposed to go there?

No ! .no one goes there. ..now a days nobody is taking even cows also there

for grazing. Years back when I was a small girl one Sayip and madamma were killed in that bungalow by their servant.

Later that servant also committed suicide in one room. Later they sold that estate and gone.

Rohan thought. That means that bungalow or some part of it is using by some body now .It doesn't look abandoned for such a long time.

So many have seen a headless ghost in a long gown .petty traders from Tamil Nadu will cross that estate to come to this village. It is a short cut. They also have seen these ghosts.

Rohan was almost sure that some activities is taking place. But how to crack and solve this puzzle of the swallowing cave .

Suddenly one jeep came and stopped. Kampi and grand ma got down.

What time Rohan came back. Grandma asked Meenu akka.

Rohan was silently pleading to Meenu akka ..not to tell.

Kampi told Meenu to pack Rohans clothes.

SP sir's phone came . he will take two more. days to come back. So he told not to leave Rohan and madam here alone. We all are going to the Estate. SP sir will directly come to the estate.

No..!! Rohan felt very sad .Then all their plan to go to the bungalow will

derail..If they get one more day they can find out the secret about that place ,and by the time grandpa comes they can give a clear picture .

At any cost they must get one more day. . Rohan thought of a plan for not going to the estate.

He didn't get any sleep. Several incidents were interconnected ..The suspicious van which parked there may have some connection with the missing children.

Grandma came inside and sat by the side of the bed.

What happened child .Are you sad that mom and dad are not here.

No . In fact Rohan felt bad that once also he didn't miss them in this new excitement.

He wanted to talk to some body about their findings. But to whom?

It is sad that children have no freedom to talk openly to parents. Parents must appreciate the good things children do. Instead ,before listening to the children they will come to their own conclusion and scold .

I am feverish grand ma. Tomorrow I wont be able to go to the estate. Rohan acted as if he is so tired.

I know. My child couldn't bear this climate. Now don't get out of the house. Only indoor games.

Rohan's trick backfired.

Grand ma caressed Rohans hair and forehead suddenly she found that Rohan has fever.

We have to take him to the doctor tomorrow.

Meenu brought some hot medicinal potion and instructed Rohan to drink.

She told .Fever will fly away as soon as you drink this. To day for dinner only broken rice porridge

The medicine got a sick smell. Rohan wanted to puke.

He may not drink all those local medicines. Kampi told.

Grand ma took her medical kit and found medicines .She took a thermometer and sat near Rohan.

Rohan suddenly took a blanket and covered him to get some warmth .Other wise his fever story will back fire.

Luckily suddenly the phone rang and she went inside. By the time she came back Rohan measured and read out loudly .Oh it is only 100 degree grandma. No need of any medicine. Ok then you sleep well .

Then I will drink Meenu akkas medicine. Rohan took a mouth full and spat it out .

Grand ma was making some arrangements for the next day. Rohan asked Meenu akka. What happened.



That snake bitten boy is little serious.  
So Grandma is going to help her sister  
my grand aunt.

In fact Rohan was relieved with that  
information though it is a bad news.

So ,tomorrow when I go out no one is  
there to stop me. There wont be any  
questions to answer .

Meenu akka can be easily fooled.

Next day morning Rohan overslept  
and got up by the raised voice of  
Meenu.

No .today baba is not coming to play .  
He has fever. Better you go .

Rohan jumped from the bed and came  
out.

Meenu akka look..! I am fine. Today  
we will sit only indoors and play. We  
wont go out..

Rohan gestured them to go ,and ran  
to the bathroom.

He finished his food in a hurry and ran  
out. Meenu akka was telling  
something which he didn't hear..

Socretes was looking very serious  
that day. He told.

We must chalk out a definite plan to  
day.

Meenu akka has some doubts. Kampi  
took grandma to the town. Kishan's  
grandma is not a problem. Socretes  
mom will come only at 8. Sandra's  
mom has night duty.

By the way I casually asked Meenu akka about that bungalow. . She also told about the head less ghost and swallowing cave as every body say.

Any way those who pass through that place or the boys who took their cows and all ,must have heard the music ,shouting laughing etc because of the TV. Then as usual villagers must have come up with all sorts of stories.

But every one says the same story about missing children .So there is a mystery about this.

This may be a racket or child trafficking. But where to start.

Yesterday when I wanted to find out about that mysterious vehicle you didn't allow.

Eby told.

But we were not sure about them. If they are involved in some sort of crime then they will change their mode of operations also.

Or let us wait for my grand pa to return.

No.. no. .Then those children cannot be saved . This may be their regular practice.

Are you sure you saw children. Sandra.?

We must go there again to day.

We can reach the other side of the hill only through that bungalow..

So, two birds with one bullet.

Yeh of course, But that bullet should not kill us.

In fact I wanted to take a torch and a knife. Rohan told.

But Meenu akka asked. Why do you need a torch in broad day light..She was having some doubt.

After the cocoa farm , there is a petty shop at the foot of the valley..

That shop always remain closed., and you cant expect to get torch and all from that small shop.

Not torch ..Let us buy candle and match box.

They were so happy to see the shop opened.

Annachi ..,Socretes called..out. Some candles and one match box..

Rohan was amused. Socretes knows every one.

Who is this new boy? He asked in Tamil

He is our SP sir's grand son..

Rohan had a feeling that annachi was slightly disturbed.

But SP sir is in Bangalore know. Is sir here for some work.

No .I don't know.

.Please, give candles.

By the way why do you need candles and match. Where are you going.

We found some.....suddenly Socretes pinched Kishan . Kishan realised his blunder,

This American boy knows magic. He told he will show some magic out of candle.

Annachi was gaping at Rohan. Where is your dad and mom.?

Socretes told. He doesn't know Malayalam.

Rohan was looking around thoroughly .

Do you need any thing more. I have some urgent work came up. He pushed the boys out and hastily took his bicycle and went away.

While walking through the narrow path in the valley Rohan asked.

Did you notice that chair on which annachi climbed to take the candle from up?

Yeh . Even I was wondering. Where did this guy got a chair so beautiful and royal .

I am sure that chair doesn't belong to this dirty shop.

One more thing I noticed through that opening. I saw one beautiful royal chandelier dumped in one corner .!!

As they passed the foot line path to climb the hill suddenly they saw annachi was coming on their way.

Where are you going this way. Annachi stopped.

Just like that. This city boy has not seen such places.

Ok ok. Carry on ...,but don't loose your city boy.

Annachi grinned widely. His blood shot eyes were scary.

Let me go. There is nobody in the shop. Any way children, heard that a leopard has been spotted some where. Better you go home .

Yeh annachi. We are going back.

So that is it.

Rohan told. This annachi has something to hide and he knows about the bungalow and the activities.

He may be an informer.

He is either stealing things from that bungalow to sell or he got direct involvement in other crimes..

They pretended as they are going back and once annachi went away, they again turned and ran inside the tall grass. This time they reached the clearance and pathway without much difficulty

Hey ...but to day also we missed the black whole.

Yeh. I remember that the well is opposite to that pale white tree. I noticed it because the trunk of that tree was white as somebody skinned it. That tree was with full of hanging flowers. Sandra told.

Ok .we will search for it later. Now hurry up.

As they walked through the arch of tangled grass,,, socretes said..I was sure and told you know. This is not a passage of wild bores. This may be a regular path of humans.

What do you mean.

Humans also have smell.

Yeh .Socretes is a police dog.

Sh.. there .! we reached the buglow. They got into the living and suddenly Rohan told to wait.

He took a deep breath and told. Either somebody is inside or just left.

Every body looked around.

Are you not getting smocking smell.

Yeh. Cigarette smell as well as the place was stinking sweat..

Be care full.

Kishan climbed in front. To day there is no sound of the TV also.

Today Kishan is not afraid. Socretes mocked.

As they reached the first floor living ,suddenly Kishan screamed and ran back.

What is wrong with you ..you stupid.  
Sandra shouted.

Now what..?

Kishan told .look ,..that skeleton is on the sofa.

All of them were surprised to see that.

Wait .I think somebody is inside.

Now let us go down .They all climbed down and reached the down narrow corridor which leads to the basement door .

Hey but we kept this door opened yesterday because of the foul smell.

Now this is locked . !!

They are almost sure that some body was following them and they are already in behind them.!

## CHAPTER -6

### THE SECRET CHAMBER

We must look forward to see one passage to escape. I think some body is in already behind us. Socrates tried the basement door suddenly it went ajar. They all got into the staircase and closed the door. It is so dark that they couldn't even see the bolt to lock.

Rohan lit the candle. suddenly they heard footsteps on the top. They got down silently. slowly the foot step noise disappeared, but they could hear some noise of vague cry or murmur.

Hey listen, somebody is in here also. Kishan whispered. Suddenly Rohan blew the candle and told them to sit quietly. But later they realised that the noise is not from the basement. Again Rohan lit the candle



and they searched the four walls for an opening.

They can hear noise but didn't understand from where.

This may be the TV.

No this is not the TV. There are some one inside. But it sounds like children I suppose. But where are they.

There may be an adjacent room with a common wall for this basement. But how to enter. ?

Creepy..! We are in danger. Sandra became pale out of fear,. She tried to sit some where .Every where looked dirty in the candle light. She stamped on some sticky rag and she bent and looked.

Hey .look at this rag. Looks like blood stain.

All of them looked at it and a kind of fear gripped everybody but they didn't show.

I think we must move wisely.

I told you that annachi is an informer or one among this gang of child lifters.

Some how we have to get out of this place and inform elders and police.

When they felt the quietness outside they slowly climbed up. But how to find that secret room from where we heard murmur .It is definitely a place where they hide children.

Sh,.. suddenly they saw a shadow. They ran to another room. In fact we are still not familiar with this place .Now if some body comes how to escape. There is no way out.

Socretes pounded the floor where he was standing.

Look this is the floor which is hollow. He bend down and inspected with his palm.

Are you sure. ?. Rohan asked. Socretes felt the grooves of the tile and suddenly he shouted Yes. !!

He took a nail cutter from his pocket and took out the small can opener ,and lifted the wooden tile. Then he put his finger underneath and lifted the tile .!

They could see a rolled stair case tied up. Yesterday we could have done little more investigation. Now it is dangerous to stay here as somebody is already saw us treading .

These people are the one who is spreading all these ghost and cave stories so that they can do their work. Cunning criminals.

That means these people are active for quite some time. Child trafficking for various purposes .They are using them for drug trafficking also.

All these events went unchecked because of the innocent villagers .They were so foolish to believe all these ghost stories.

So I think ,even the TV is also they themselves are operating. Or they play CD s of some horror music to distract and scare those who are coming any where nearby.

What about those skeleton and Halloween attire.

They may be scaring those children with it.

Any way..Police will have some record of the murders happened in this bunglow even though it is committed long back.

By the way ,when I wanted to sit some where in that basement and I climbed in the washing machine .I think I saw some childrens cloths next to it. I suspect there was blood stain also.

Mad fool. Socrates yelled. Why didn't you tell such an important information.

I showed you also the other wet rag on which I stepped.But by the time you told to run

Great .! . Now you cant go back there again and check. we have no time.

But one thing is vey clear that ,these are not petty thieves . This is a large network.

Suddenly they felt that some body passed near the window. again.

There is some body out there.

Then why are they not showing up.

Rohan lowered his voice. Socretes told that shop keeper who I am. So they may be thinking that police personal may be accompanying us.

Possibly.

Rohan rubbed his palm in despair. I wish my grandpa return soon . Then all these problems could have been solved.

It is getting dark. I think we must get out of this place before dusk.

But what about the noise in the adjacent room of the basement.

Those are children in captive for sure. !! But without any force back up we cant try to enter there.

Let us go to that cliff and look for that vehicle is still there.

No need. Don't take it very lightly. If they trap us , our mission cannot be accomplished..

Again they felt somebody passed and the place was stinking.

Suddenly Kishan screamed,

There....I saw one headless lady moving or floating inside.

How do you know that it is headless. ,and a lady?

It was a lady I am sure. I saw long flowing gown and blood was dripping from the neck.!

Oh ..will you shut up this nonsense.

No. I swear I saw that headless ghost..

Come let us go upstairs and see.

Don't go .Don't be foolish.

Suddenly heavy wind started. I think it is going to rain. I think to day we must go back and inform somebody about this. Rohan told.

We can come back tomorrow. And search those blood stained children's cloth in the basement and that secret room.!

But tomorrow we are going for a function .Kishan told. They wont allow me to stay back.

For me also tomorrow will be doubt full .Grandma may force me to go to the estate,.

But if grandpa returns then there is no problem.

Why is he taking so long .

They are raiding naxals in Karnataka Tamil Nadu border.

As they reached the front living room suddenly some thud noise was heard as if somebody running down the stairs.

Hey look. Sandra shouted and screamed. It is a ghost.

Rohan didn't see properly .but even Socrates and Kishan also screamed.

Run... They all got out through the broken window and ran as fast as they can. They couldn't find the arch through the tall bush. They started running helter skelter.

Dont panic. Rohan told. Dont go here and there .Follow me. I know the way..

They ran as fast as they could.,They ran for their life..They were afraid to turn back as the rustle of dry leaves were just behind them .The ghost is following.

When they came to the clearance in the valley Rohan told .

Stop. !! Nothing is there behind us..More over I knew that it was not a ghost. It is all their trick. But if we try to resist they will capture us.

They fell here and there as they were exhausted out of fear and fast running.

Did you see it clearly Sandra.? Rohan asked

Yes dude I saw. Her face became pale again. It was like flowing in the air. But for a moment I had a doubt that somebody threw her towards us. .The ghost was turning vigorously..

Ask Socrates. He also saw. Told Kishan.

They must have tied it to some rope and slid it down. Rohan told.

But It was looking so real. Socrates said. Any way. We shouldn't have frightened so much.

Yeh We could have stayed back to get to know the reality..

No .that is foolishness. Rohan told.

Because it was no ghost. Real people were scaring us. If we wont run away they will definitely harm us. More over now as we ran ,they will get a false impression that we believed in the ghost and never try to go back.

Yeh. That is true.

Now what.?

Let us go home.

Suddenly Socretes shouted in anguish..Oh,,, I think I lost my watch and house key..

Socretes jumped up and started pacing up and down in a utter despair.. He was shouting at himself and crying.

Calm down Eby .Search in your pocket properly.

No ..I think I lost it when I got out of that window.

No. While running you took out the watch from the shirt pocket and put it into the trouser's pocket. Kishan told. And that was not near the bungalow.

Are you sure.?

Now what to do.

I am going back..My mother will kill me.

Don't be stupid. Now it is already becoming dark..If you go back ,you will be in danger.

It is okay .I will get the duplicate key from my house .Sandra tried to console him. Eby's mother use to keep one set in Sandra's house also.

But watch.?

That will be fine .It is already late .Your mom wont ask for the watch.

No. She uses it at night. She use to keep it near her pillow .One day I asked her .

Are you keeping it for alarm mamma.

No .when I keep this near me ,I feel that strong hand of your papa around us.!

My mother will kill me. More over I don't want to hurt her . Though I never show any love towards my dead father I love my mother so much and who ever she loves the most is precious to me also.

I just act as I don't care just to make her forget her grief.

Rohan ,was surprised to know the actual Eby. He is so good at heart.

I am going back in search of it.

Please don't be stupid. You are going to risk your life and risking those children's lives also.

Or else we will also come with you.



If all of us are missing every body will blame Eby .Other wise also people use to say he is crazy.

Sandra told.

Rohan has a solution. All of us will come to your house and tell aunty that he misplaced his watch in my house some where. We will search for it and get it tomorrow.

Yeh .That is a good plan. their faces lit.

Every body agreed .

At the first place I was never allowed to touch papa's watch. ,forget wearing it.

Leave it .I will tell her something. Socretes sat there in despair. He was looking very sad.!

That was the last Rohan saw socretes.!!

## CHAPTER—7

## SOCRETES.

Rohan could not find any reliable reason on the following day for not going to the estate.

He pleaded to grand ma.

Grand ma ,let grandpa come back .then ,we can go to the estate.

It is so strange. You wanted to go to the estate as soon as you reached here.

To day one more day we have plans .By the time grandpa also will come.

Yeh yeh. That crazy Eby's plan. Isn't it?! Meenu akka told.

Nothing doing .Today we have to go. There are people working for the past one week. I have to give them salary. Kampi told.

You can come back tomorrow with SP sir .

On the way to the Esate Rohan was thinking about socretes. ,

Kishan also must have gone with his parents.

There is no way to talk to socretes. His mother wont give him phone . Sandra also doesn't have one. Rohan didn't enjoy anything in the estate. He refuse to eat food also. He didn't talk to any one. He slept early.

Next day he heard grand ma talking to Kampi.

Sir will take one more day .He told us to go back and don't make Rohan sad.

Ok. Then I will drop you there. Inform Meenu so that she can make lunch.

Rohan was so happy and thrilled ,but as soon as he reached home Meenu whispered.

Eby is missing. All are searching for you to ask about him.

Rohan got a shock of his life.

Where did this secret go.

Blood rushed to his head .Rohan sat there numb stuck . He must have gone in search of his watch .,and must have captured by those people.

Rohan felt very sad and perplexed.

Rohan was afraid to go to Ebys house .That aunty may be waiting to ask a hundred and one questions to him.

Rohan wanted to meet any one of them. Kishan or Sandra. He cant telephone Kishan as he will answer loudly. Out of all Sandra is little more matured and intelligent .

Rohan must meet her. But how.?

Suddenly he could not believe his eyes. Sandra appeared from nowhere.

Sandra gestured him to come out .Rohan hurriedly got out of the house and took her to the outhouse garage.

Thank God you read my mind. what is the position now. How is Eby's mother.

Where is Kishan? But why did this stupid Eby went alone.

Will you stop asking questions.

Sandra talked in a low voice. There is a big problem .They gave a missing complaint in the police station. At any moment they will come here to question us.!

God ..then, all our plan of nabbing those criminal and rescuing the children will go in vain.

What else to do. If the police question us we have to tell the whole story. My mom is with Eby's mother. She is in consolable.

On top of that shop keeper annachi told her that he saw us going to the forest. He scared her by telling about the leopard also,..!

Poor thing. ..is Crying non stop. She was feeling bad that you didn't go there.

But how to go there Sandra. Meenu akka was telling all were talking about me. Rohan said.

That city boy came and created all these trouble. Earlier they never use to go far from that river side. .Hearing that grandma also felt bad. Rohan came to enjoy the holidays and got caught unaware in all these mess.!

You can dodge her queries by some lies. But when police asks what to tell them.

But I am worried Sandra ..some thing must have happened to Eby. Rohan shivered at the thought of some untoward incident. God ,nothing must happen to him.

He will be fine. Nothing should have happened to Eby. Sandra was sure.

I am sure Eby must have gone back in search of his watch. When my mother came to pick me up I warned him again not to go back alone. Foolish boy.

One more possibility worries me.

What. ?! Rohan was anxious.

He was always fascinated about that abandoned well, his so called black hole.!

God !,Rohan was breathless.., and at night you cant even see it.

It is very dangerous ,because the mud around it is very loose and its like a trap as you cant see .It is covered with plants and bush.

Sandra please don't tell me all these . He is my best buddy.

Every time we passed that well he wanted to stop over and play ,but you never allowed.

Yeh ..It is dangerous. We must bring it into the notice of authorities and cap it

.

He says our earth also will vanish in some black hole in the universe and fall somewhere in fragments .

He indeed is an intelligent boy.

Sandra, when we played by throwing stones in that well a dirty stinking smell filled in that area. Do you remember.

Yeh , but stagnant water also gives that foul smell. And wild animals also may slip and fall.

But wild animals are very clever. They may be aware of it. They will have a particular route also.

What are you trying to say.

It is my guessing. You saw blood stained clothes in the basement.

Let us not assume.

Is Kishan back .He also may not be knowing anything about Society's plan.

Why did this Eby took a foolish decision like this. Rohan was in the wedge of tears.

I wish my grandpa is here. Suddenly phone rang. Rohan got out and ran to the main house. After a while Rohan rushed back with a wide grin,

He came and pulled Sandra by hand and started jumping and swinging around..

Sandra laughed and shouted . Stop .what is it .make you so happy.

Grandpa is reaching by evening flight.  
From Coimbatore it is only two hours.  
To day night only I will tell him the  
whole story. He can find out Eby and  
complete our mission also.

Suddenly Sandra became gloomy and  
sad,.

One more night Rohan..! It is a long  
period without hearing from Eby. I  
don't know what is he doing in that  
forest .

Rohan also felt very sad.

I pray the Good Lord that nothing must  
happen to Eby. Sandra is the only one  
called him by his original name.

She got up and walked away silently  
waving. She was almost in tears.

Some body inside him told that  
nothing will happen to Eby.

As soon as Grandpa came in ,Rohan  
hugged him and whispered .I must talk  
to you about a very serious matter.

He laughed loudly. More serious than  
the naxal movement .?!

Yes of course .

After listening to Rohan grand pa was  
slightly disturbed.

They could have been dangerous to  
you my dear child.

This seems to be a big gang who must  
have net work in the whole country.

He took his laptop and opened his top secret password and sent mails to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka police chiefs.

He started getting case history and unsolved cases of missing children..

He considered the angle in which Rohan was narrating about cardamom estate bungalow.

He checked the old history of murders and suddenly he came across the estate murder .The twin murder of the foreign couple and the suicide of the murderer.

That case was closed as the culprit committed suicide..

But This murder may be committed by more than one person. This investigation was not proper.

Any way our prime aim is to find out your socretes.

Yes grandpa.I don't want to loose him. Rohan almost chocked.

Ok baby don't worry .you sleep Let me have a video conference with other officers and local police.

Rohan tried to sleep. Whenever he tries to sleep Eby appeared smiling.

Though it was only a month's friendship Rohan consider him as his best buddy.

You are the most intelligent boy Eby.,but with less commonsense. Once Rohan told him



He has a good collection of philosophy books at this age. He writes small skits and drama about socretes and acts in front of his friends.

Once or twice they played those skits in Eby's house.

Eby was socretes .When the play starts, he always sits and think ,write etc. But never care for the house. There was nothing in the house to cook and there was no money.

Sandra was his wife,. who kept on nagging him for not earning for a living.

She was acting very nicely

While washing clothes she was yelling at him about living in penury .

But socretes was still writing .He seems to be not bothered.

She became furious and took the bucket in which she was washing clothes , and poured soap water on him and his books and papers.

Socretes must turn back and thank her .

kishan was prompting the dialogue

Thank you darling . .Any way I have not taken bath for a few days. !!

But in drama ,Sandra brought a small bucket of water and poured on Eby. He jumped up and yelled at her ,and ran after her with rest of the water to pour on her.

Who told you to pour water on me!  
You must only show action. Every  
body roared with laughter.

On another day he played another  
skit of Socrates who was staying in a  
pipe. King Alexander comes ,and  
stands in front of the pipe He offers  
the great philosopher good house etc.  
King was blocking his light. Socrates  
shouts.

Move away from my light.!

Then the last one was ,the cellar  
scene after the death sentence  
awarded to Socrates . He sits and  
writes in the jail .soldier was waiting  
with the poison. He reluctantly gives it  
to Socrates.

Kishan was the soldier. Soldier cries  
while giving poison to him.

Please drink this. Now you must walk  
up and down for the poison to act fast.

Ok. Why are you crying soldier. Can  
you listen those footsteps....That is the  
footsteps of the new voice ,new theory  
of life ....!

Rohan got up suddenly.

Will they hurt him.?grandpa ?!

Grandpa told him to sleep peacefully.

We will find out that little soldier Eby. I  
am so proud of you Rohan,. You all  
are brave children.

Now you sleep. We have to leave  
early in the morning.

Grandpa was reading and marking in a map.

He arranged for forming small groups. All police personal must be in civil dress mufti. He briefed local police station .They must be ready as back up force.

No one must have a doubt. Every move must be planned. If Eby is a hostage in their hands they should not hurt him because of any wrong move from our side.!

But I think he is hiding somewhere for a reason. Grandpa told.

What if they took him also far. Rohan missed a heart beat.

Grandpa I don't want to lose hm. He is the nicest boy and my best buddy.

Rohan almost cried.

His mother is in deep sorrow. I am feeling some kind of guilt because he was left alone out there.

Dont worry. We will find him . now you sleep. You must get good sleep. Other wise your brain refuse to work. It will imagine and make its own illusions.

We will start at sharp six in the morning.

Rohan tried to sleep.

The imaginations and illusions of Eby is always fascinating. He painted the whole solar system on his room wall ,.Through the solar system he drew himself as super man .

It is interesting. You are flying every where.

If the rotation of earth is so fast and by chance if we fall ,we will land in the space. ,where there is no gravity. So we can fly like super man.

Then ,why did you draw your mother else where ?

Mom prefers to stay with her husband who is with God. So I dropped her in front of heaven..This is me flying every where and enjoying. I can fly through planets and stars.

Ok. Now tell me what is that dark circle?

That is the black hole .It will swallow stars and small planets.

Is it so hungry.

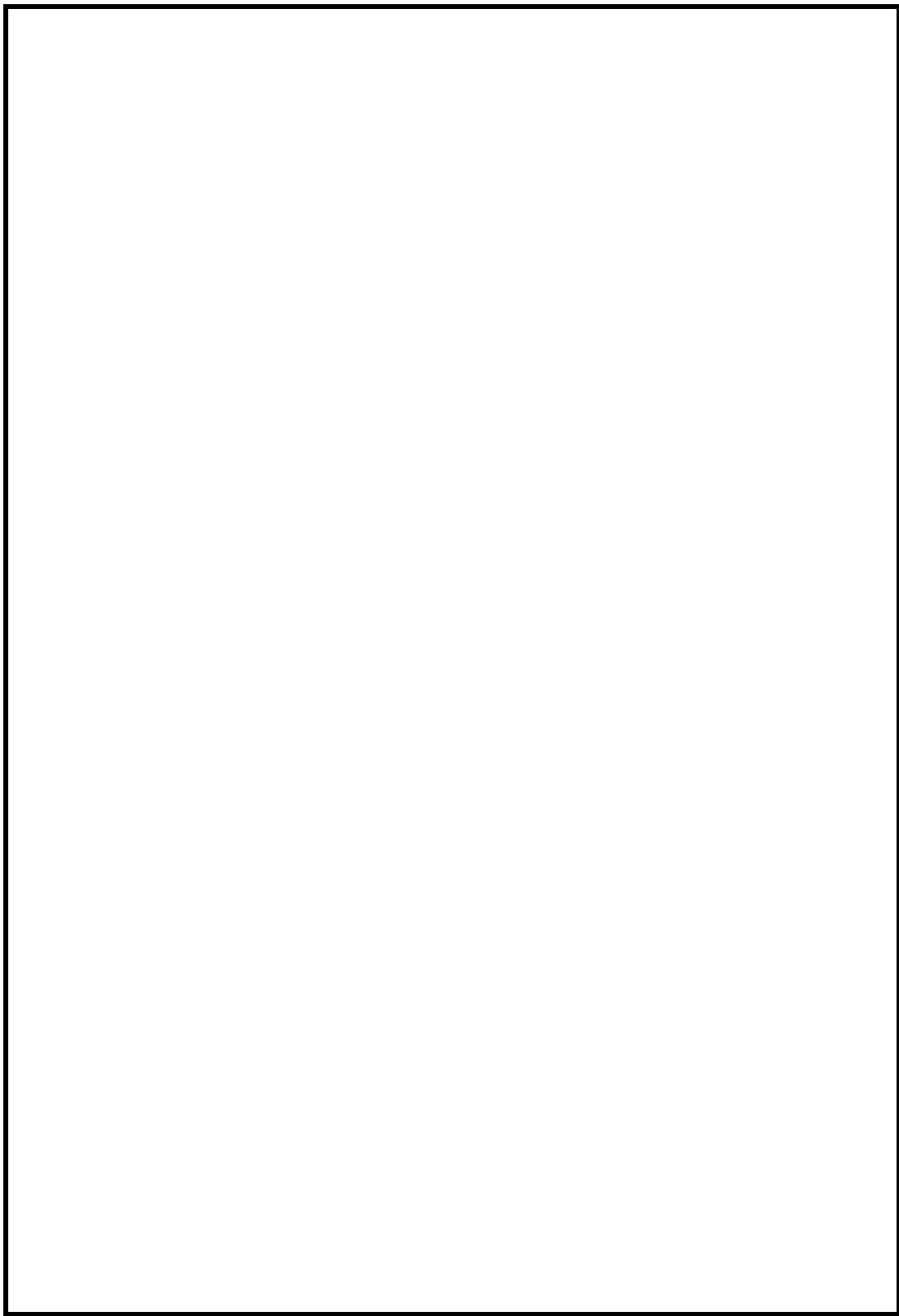
Yeh this monster is always hungry.

But I fly through it without any harm.

Then his mother came with some chocolate.

Rohan ,please don't become like him .He is crazy. Number one fool .and always lives in fools paradise .!!

Rohan prayed. Nothing must happen to him.



## CHAPTER--8

### THE RESCUE

When Rohan and grandpa reached Ebys house people stood up in respect..

Some people blamed local police for not taking any action. Shop keeper annachi was standing there and talking to people about the possible leopard attack..Rohan showed him to grandpa.

He called one police in mufti and whispered something. He approached annachi and asked some questions and took him away. He was resisting and asking counter questions .He turned back and looked furiously at Rohan. Rohan was not afraid. He was sure about the part of this annachi in

the whole episode. He may be aware where Eby is.

Annachi's friend Musthafa came forward and told. These police personal is crazy. If they wont get any culprit they will catch hold of you and make you one.

Do you also want to come along. One police asked him. He went back to the crowd.

Grandpa consoled Ebys mother and told her that her son is a brave soldier.

Sandra also joined Rohan. Kishans parents and Kishan came in.

An astonished Kishan looked at Rohan and silently asked is there any news.

Today ..we will certainly get him back. Rohan was confident.

As Rohan saw Kishan's father talking to some one Rohan ran to him and told, Uncle please don't tell any thing.

What?! He was surprised.

Kishan suddenly pulled Rohan.

I have not told him any thing you fool.

Oh, thank you Kishan you are a clever boy.

Grandpa briefed the police group and gave instructions to split into one or two persons on one area..

Rohan pleaded with grandpa that they also want to accompany.

Nothing doing. It is a dangerous venture. You all go home.

How do you know the route.?

That you don't worry. They are the best task force. Grandpa was in shorts and gumboot.

Rohan whispered to Kishan and Sandra .

They took their usual route ..But everything was looking different. Rohan told they have tampered the usual route.

Then that may be the reason Socrates must have lost his way...

Somehow they reached the stone pavement.

Hey look, . this is the stone pavement leading to the cemetery. That means we passed that well. .Then by the side of this clearance we can climb to the hill where the Bungalow is situated..

Suddenly they heard some noise and murmur.

Wait. Carefull .!

Rohan warned Kishan and Sandra.

They heard someone calling. Rohan...shh ..Rohan.

For their utter disbelief and surprise it was Socrates..

What ?!.They ran towards the voice . Eby was sitting inside a bush.



He looked different. Tired and haggard. .

Eby!. Sandra shouted..They lifted him from the bush and gave him water.

They all hugged each other. Oh Eby you are alive .Are you ok.

He couldn't even talk. Rohan gave him biscuit and chocolate which he was carrying..Socretes looked back and gave the water bottle to the adjacent bush.

There are some children.

Who are they.?! By the way where were you and how did you get these children ..,from where. .?

Rohan ,Kishan and Sandra were asking questions non stop.

Eby told. Wait I will tell you. But now we must escape. They will reach us at any moment.

No. You don't worry. Grandpa is back. He and his team is already combing this area. .They must have reached that bungalow by now.

We ,must inform his mother and grand pa that Socretes is safe.

In fact I don't think all these children are able to walk further. They all look tired and drugged .Let them wait here and one of us can go down. No. Don't do that. If we get captured then it will be a problem.

I am sure that grandpa's team will reach us soon. Now give them all the snacks we have .

They all are hungry.

The smallest one may be of less than five years. His wide large eyes appears to be pleading for his life. Sandra went and took his hands in hers and tried to smile.

Tell us what happened that day Eby.  
?! We all told you not to go in search of your watch

Yeh I know. But I was upset. My mom kept it as a treasure. She will definitely search for it.

Then I thought any way you all told that you may not be able to come the next day..I took a decision .My head was not straight.

My expectation was that ,as Kishan told the watch must have fallen some where near by .Mom had told me that after duty she may go to her ailing aunt and come after 8 O clock.

I took a torch and it was not dark when I left.

I searched for it and kept on walking through our regular route. Some how I almost reached the blackhole. Then suddenly I heard people talking..I hid myself among the bush.

Then I saw two people were carrying some thing and walking. They reached the well and threw that into the well..The cloth covering it flew. I got a

shock of my life . It was a body of child  
may be my size. !

What.? Are you kidding. Sandra  
asked.

Are you making up a story of your  
imagination.

No. They threw some thing else , may  
be another body and they hurried  
back.

Suddenly without a second thought I  
followed them stealthily

Do you remember, that day when we  
threw stones inside the well a strong  
foul smell emitted ,I think earlier also  
they must have dumped bodies.

How sad. ! Some body's children.!!

..But ..Eby ..it was a high risk decision  
to follow them .

I know. But I just followed.

Then what happened ?

They reached the Bungalow. They  
opened the front door. I wanted to go  
in through our window route. But  
instead I climbed the parapet wall and  
hid myself near the ventilator

Were you not scared.?

No. Some how nothing was in my  
mind other than finding the facts.  
Some kind of power was in me. I felt  
that inner push some kind of courage  
and confidence.

I sat there and watched.

There was a cellar kind of room. Remember that day when we removed that wooden floor tiles we found one folded staircase. That one goes to this cellar.

I saw many children sleeping on the floor. Some were sitting. These two guys whom I followed went down and sat near them. They were injecting some children, especially those who are crying.

My be sedative drugs. ..so that they wont resist . I don't know for what.

So when we went into the basement this may be the adjacent wall from where we heard noise. Sandra told.

Then how did you get to these children.

Suddenly one girl ..,may be twelve or thirteen years old rushed into the room from nowhere and started crying loudly.

She was calling one name "Sonu" and searching among children.

Sonu ..where is he..? She was asking and screaming.

Suddenly one of the guy slapped hard on her cheek. and dragged her out .I was not able to see beyond that wall..I thought I may fall from that ventilator

Then after that everybody became silent. They kept a radio or tape recorder on in full volume. They have gone up .

And I heard the top TV is also on. I sat there and thought about every possible way. If I want to go back I have to go through that first floor living where those guys may be sitting.

When mom comes back and she realises that I am missing ,straight away she will go to Sandra's house.

What could be Sandra's plight .. Sandra's mother will find fault with her.

If I go leaving these innocent children I cant pardon myself.

I was in a dilemma.

Suddenly one boy saw me staring through the ventilator and poor thing got a shock. He fell down and pretend to sleep.

I whispered. Don't be afraid. I am not their man.

Then ,in order to win their trust I told a lie.

I escaped from them. Please open that ladder. I will come down and take you out. He called some other boys also. They didn't understand completely ,but climbed one on top of the other and reached the ladder .They removed the rope and got it down.

I crawled inside the ventilator and tried to catch hold of the ladder but couldn't .Thud I fell.

We all got frightened .. Luckily no body came to check. There were only seven boys in that room.

They were not getting my language. I communicated with actions and words. They wanted to escape .so they agreed. Some were so dazed with the drugs. We dragged them also.

I broke the lock with a boulder and ran out to the pitch darkness. They told other children including girls also there somewhere in that bungalow.

Let us get out and then we will inform police. Suddenly we heard screaming and crying in the some other room. We ran till we reach those bushes .It is like blind folded run .Though I had a torch I didn't use it . I thought they may be behind us .We can see only vaguely ,

When you concentrate we can see each other in faded moon light. I made them sit there. We all slept till sun came up. Then I had an idea of the way to the black hole .I brought them here.

Rohan was numb to hear about Eby's extreme courage and ultimate mission. For two whole days you were here without food and water..!!

I don't know how many days and nights we were here. We ate some wild berries and leaves from that bush .Most of them were in a slumber because the drugs they inject these poor souls.

In fact today is the fourth day. Sandra told .

But I was sure that you people will come in search of me. So cretes hugged all three of them.

They also felt like crying. How can we leave you dude.

Eby ,your mother is inconsolable .she thinks that some wild animal must have eaten you up. That annachi was spreading the news of the leopard.

Any way they took him into custody. So they must have taken him to the bungalow and to the culprits.

Now how to inform them. You sit here myself and Sandra will go and inform..They are too tired to walk.

No .Now it is dangerous to leave them here. Those people will be on the run. What if they find these children and take them as hostage.

We all must move together till the valley.

## CHAPTER—9

### **THE ENCOUNTER.**

Rohan and Sandra walked in front , Eby and kishan at the back. and Children in the middle. They walked in silence..They could hear their own foot steps .Though there was a feeling of relief in the air ,they were too tired to talk.

Suddenly they could hear some noise.

Rohan told them to stop and whispered . Hide.

Before every body could hide two horrible looking people jumped out from the bush.

Children started screaming . Every body started shivering out of fear .

Socretes was feeling bad that he took so much trouble but could not reach them to safety.

One of them have a gun and he was pointing it towards them. But Rohan took notice of them and observed that they are also kind of scared. They were looking around in panic. That means they knew that police are already in action. ,or they may be escaping from police chase.

The fellow with the gun ordered everybody to sit down.



But they all started crying and screaming. They did not heed.

Rohan understood that those guys were visibly perplexed. Suddenly Rohan took out a small black thing with a red light shining from his pocket and acted as if he talking onto it.

Then he screamed on the top of his voice. Here are they...here they..are..!

Police...!! police!

In the melee both the guys ran ..

Rohan told, now it is not safe here at all. All of you must take strength and run.

They reached the valley and saw two police men.

All of them relieved. They dropped down exhausted. Rohan explained to one of the policeman briefly and told to inform grandpa. Through walkie talkie .

Rohan talked to him in that and requested for food and water for the children.

Grandpa rushed in a jeep towards them.

He was so happy to see them all. And told Rohan to take Eby to his mother. Children will be looked after by those police. First they will take them to the station and to the hospital.

Rest of them also will be rescued in a short time. As the children were

getting into the police jeep ,the small boy ran towards socretes and hugged him .and cried. He was only as tall as his waist. Socreties also wept. Rohan Sandra Kishan all were very sad.

You don't worry .they will find your mother. Eby told him.

Rohan told about the other two guys whom they encountered in the forest.

Grand pa told. Dont worry. Our people encircled the whole area. They took that annachi and his friend Mustafa ,into custody who were the main informers . So our movements will be extremely secret..They may already expecting something because these children are missing out of the whole lot and two of them had an encounter with you. Now their main idea will be to escape. We must not allow that. The only problem is that we don't know how many of them are there.

We also will come with you grandpa.

No. It is dangerous.

But we will be of some help. Because we know the route and inside lay out of that bunglow.

By evening five of the culprits got arrested and thirty five children were rescued.

It was a terrible fight.

As they approached the building, all kind of ghost's sound and music of horror movies can be heard...As they

explained already about all these to ,police they didn't care .

You don't come inside Rohan. It may be dangerous and the whole operation will be affected.

In spite of the ghost affected atmosphere as police persons entered the bungalow ,there appeared one headless ghost with dripping blood from the neck..

Munneer the camando trained circle inspector gave it a chase and it disappeared.

At last they almost ran out of all tricks and put fire in front of the staircase. Police never expected that , but suddenly they cut some of the branches from a tree and put out the fire.

Then suddenly somebody shouted in Tamil and Hindi. .

If you proceed further we are going to kill all these children.

You dare do that .SP shouted back. If you surrender without harming those children we can talk. Other wise no body is going to survive.

Then there was silence.

Socretes had sketched a diagram of the interiors and secret hollow floor with wooden tiles and the secret ladder towards the cellar . But all those children are out. Now we must find out where these criminals are located.

That may be in the basement.

Rohan ,Sandra and Kishan also helped him to draw the inside lay out of the bungalow basement.

Police persons have almost cornered them.

But to engage them in talking SP again announced. We can discuss the matter. If you wont hurt those children you wont have any punishment. If you dare touch them that is the end of it.

Lie. The culprit shouted back. Lie .you are lying .You police are liers.

Suddenly there was one gunshot .All the children started screaming..

In fact it helped the police to locate the sound.

Police charged in and killed the man with the gun instantly. Though one child was shot at ,he didn't die. He was bleeding very badly.

Rest of the two ran out ,but to the hands of SP ready at the foot of the stair case. They were overpowered soon and handcuffed.

Rohan,Eby Sandra and Kishan were shaken by the gunshots but Rohan was so confident that his grandpa will overcome any situation.

A beaming grand pa came out of the bungalow and called them

Come on in little daring soldiers.  
Mission accomplished.

The police went to the room and took all the children out.

At first all children were so scared and they refused to come out. Most of them were girls. Some are up to fifteen years old.

Grandpa convinced them .

We are police .we came to rescue you people. We will find out your parents and send you home.

One girl with scattered hair and torn clothes ,gathered courage and came out .She asked grandpa.

Sir, I am searching for my brother Sonu. He was with me but they took him away to another room. And he is not to be seen.

Dont worry child. We got another six or seven children at the station .He will be among them.

Socretes felt bad. He looked at Rohan.

That was the body they threw into that well along with another big one.

## CHAPTER—10

### **DARING 4**

Eby s mother has no words to thank God for giving her child back . She thanked all police personal especially grandpa.

It was a combined operation of two states .Grandpa appreciated Tamil Nadu police also.

All of those were wanted criminals.!!

All of them gathered in her house were so happy to see Eby again. Every body thought that he must have swallowed by the cave. ,or eaten by the leopard

There is no cave which swallows. Rohan told smiling. Now no more children will be missing.

In fact if these children wont take the courage to investigate about the swallowing cave this child trafficking would have gone un noticed .

Every body praised them.

They are gem of our village.

Grand pa told there is a felicitation function arranged in Eby's school.

. Minister called and thanked all of you and suggested your names for bravery awards.

Grandpa told

We don't want any awards. Those children must get back their parents .

Yeh. Efforts have been made .All most all of them have illiterate poverty driven parents,.

Other wise they all will be sent to some orphanage and their education will be looked after.

During felicitation function all four of them were on the Dias. Children those who use to make fun of Eby looked at him with respect.

The head master introduced Rohan to other children and praised all four of them for their bravery.

Eby ,Sandra and Kishan are our school's pride..Not only our school ,the whole country is proud of them. A great applause followed. Rohan looked at his parents who came from States to attend the function.

Head master thanked the whole team of police and grandpa from Karnataka police for chalking out a solid plan for the operation.

Local political leader and commissioner also were present. They talked about finding their parents and rehabilitation of those children.

Social worker Nina had a point .

Other than kidnapping these villagers themselves send their children with strangers for work.

We must give awareness to these parents .It is a fact that their poverty drives them to send these children with the traffickers. They give false promises to parents and take away these children.

It encourages child labour .They literally sell them for some money and never bother about their well being. In fact the birth of a boy is a



benefit ,as they consider him as an earning member.

These greedy agents traffic children for many purpose. They will sell them as bonded labourers in carpet factory and all other kinds of work . Children are chained in work place so that they wont escape.

The cruelty towards children are innumerable. They are disfigured to make them beggars. It is a big racket .In cities ,when these children come near you to beg ,they are not begging alms for themselves. It is easy money for the agents who run this racket.

Small girls are seen with infants also are not their own. This agents rent Infants for begging. They drug the child to sleep all the while begging.

Some children are found operated upon to transform them as eunuchs..!!

Some of them will be sent for camel racing also !!

Camel is not very intelligent to race as horse. So they will tie small children on its back and whiplash them. When the child screams and cries, the camel runs very fast out of fear. Sometimes children will die during the race

Before they could untie the child , the camel will run amok with the half dead child on its back. It is all horrible cruelty which is banned now.

We must end these atrocities towards children.

Basically we must give awareness to these villagers who easily believe people to allow them to traffic children,.

Girls and boys are used for other mean things where their dignity is at stake. .Poverty is the basic challenge where they are forced to get down to any kind of life.

.They are always cheated by rich and educated .They exploit these villagers at large.

In every state primary and secondary education must be free and they must provide one meal at least in schools.

Education brings wisdom and wisdom brings everything.

Every body accepted her speech with big applause.

Rohan's parents were so proud of him .

With lots and lots of memories Rohan packed his bag for going back to US.

Kishan , Sandra, and Eby were feeling bad to part him.

Rohan took out his toy with the red light which he used as an instrument to scare those criminal and gave it to Eby.

Everybody laughed.

He gave lot of chocolates which his  
parents brought to all of them.

He bid fare well to every body. And  
shouted back from the car with a  
thumbs up.

Hey friends ,see you ...next vacation  
!!

